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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/51/L.16)]

51/19. Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/11 of 27 October 1986, in which it solemnly declared the Atlantic Ocean, in the region between Africa and South America, the "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic",

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the matter, including resolution 45/36 of 27 November 1990, in which it reaffirmed the determination of the States of the zone to enhance and accelerate their cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, cultural and other spheres,

Reaffirming that the questions of peace and security and those of development are interrelated and inseparable, and that cooperation for peace and development among States of the region will promote the objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic,

Aware of the importance that the States of the zone attach to the environment of the region, and recognizing the threat that pollution from any source poses to the marine and coastal environment, its ecological balance and its resources,

1. Reaffirms the importance of the purposes and objectives of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic as a basis for the promotion of cooperation among the countries of the region;

2. Calls upon all States to cooperate in the promotion of the objectives established in the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic and to refrain from any action inconsistent with those objectives and with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant resolutions

of the Organization, particularly action which may create or aggravate situations of tension and potential conflict in the region;

3. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1] submitted in accordance with its resolution 50/18 of 27 November 1995;

4. Recalls the agreement reached at the third meeting of the States members of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic, held at Brasilia in 1994, to encourage democracy and political pluralism and, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[2] to promote and defend all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to cooperate towards the achievement of those goals;

5. Welcomes with satisfaction the holding of the fourth meeting of the States members of the zone at Somerset West, South Africa, on 1 and 2 April 1996, and takes note of the Final Declaration, the decision on drug trafficking, the decision on the protection of the marine environment and the decision on illegal fishing activities in the zone, adopted at the meeting;

6. Welcomes the progress towards the full entry into force of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco),[3] and the conclusion of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba);[4]

7. Also welcomes the efforts of the Government of Angola to implement the Lusaka Protocol,[5] expresses its deep concern at the delay in fully implementing the Lusaka Protocol and calls upon the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola to fulfil immediately the tasks enumerated in the "Mediation Document" formulated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in consultation with the three observer States, as contained in Security Council resolution 1075 (1996) of 11 October 1996;

8. Reaffirms its willingness to contribute by all means at its disposal to an effective and lasting peace in Angola;

9. Urges the international community to fulfil expeditiously its pledges to provide assistance to facilitate the rehabilitation of the Angolan national economy and the resettlement of displaced persons, and stresses the importance of such assistance at this time in order to consolidate the gains in the peace process;

10. Welcomes the outcome of the summit meeting of the Economic Community of West African States Committee of Nine on Liberia, which

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[1] A/51/458.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[4] See A/50/426.

[5] S/1995/1441.

revalidated the Abuja Agreement[6] and, inter alia, foresees the holding of democratic elections in Liberia by 30 May 1997;

11. Commends and encourages Nigeria in its capacity as chair of the Committee of Nine, as well as all the members of the Economic Community of West African States, to pursue positive efforts towards peace in Liberia, and requests the international community to support the endeavours of the new chairperson of the Council of State of the Liberian National Transitional Government and to provide the necessary assistance to the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group to enable it to carry out its mandate;

12. Commends the efforts of Member States and humanitarian organizations to render humanitarian assistance to Angola and Liberia, and urges them to continue to provide and to increase such assistance;

13. Affirms the importance of the South Atlantic to global maritime and commercial transactions and its determination to preserve the region for all peaceful purposes and activities protected by international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[7]

14. Welcomes the offer by Argentina to host the fifth meeting of the States members of the zone;

15. Requests the relevant organizations, organs and bodies of the United Nations system to render all appropriate assistance which States of the zone may seek in their joint efforts to implement the declaration of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the implementation of resolution 41/11 and subsequent resolutions on the matter under review and to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by Member States;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic".

58th plenary meeting
14 November 1996

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[6] S/1995/742.

[7] Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.